



ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIA DOUGLAS

ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE

Sophia Douglas is in the third grade at Northeast Elementary School in Meridian. She is the daughter of Patrick and Rose Douglas. She drew this picture in Mandy Goldman's art class. Here is her message to U.S. troops deployed overseas: "America is people praising your name. America is different shapes and sizes of people — happy, sad and even sleepy people who need you. We are counting on you. Bless you!"

Waiting for the call

Maresha Lewis is a medical laboratory technician at Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center and a member of the Mississippi Air National Guard's 186th Air Refueling Wing at Key Field. This is her message to active duty military, Guardsmen and Reservists.

By Maresha Lewis
special to The Star

Whether deployed or serving at home, the military are the most courageous and dedicated people there is are.

I know this firsthand because I am a member of the 186th Air Refueling Wing of Meridian. I have never been deployed, but I have a father and a brother who have dedicated themselves to missions overseas.

The thought of them leaving and possibly never returning was something that was constantly on my mind when they were deployed. They are both home safe now — but the worries are still here because I might get my chance to serve overseas.

I'm often asked, "What would you do if you

are called to war?" And I always reply, "Pack my bags and say my good-byes" because I knew there was a chance I might have to go one day when I enlisted.

To all the soldiers who are overseas, I want to say thank you for your hard work and dedication to the military. I know it's not easy being away from home and your family, but hang in there, it will be over before you know it. We hold you in our prayers and wait anxiously for your return back home.

And to all the soldiers serving here in the homeland, keep up the good work because without us supporting those overseas, missions would be impossible. We also pray that you will not be called to duty but, if need be, we know we are sending our very best.

God bless you all.



Lewis